

absorbent components being comprised of absorbent members. Accordingly, no new matter is involved.

The amendment to Claim 11 merely conforms the recitation of the absorbent core component to the full scope of that supported by the Specification. For example, on page 16, in lines 3-8, Applicants teach that the outer front end 21 of the present invention corresponds to the waist region 63 of an absorbent article 60. (See page 15, lines 7-9 with reference to FIG. 11). Similarly, outer back end 31 also corresponds to the waist region 63 of an absorbent article 60. When made by the method of the present invention, center section 50, which corresponds to the claimed "core component disposed in said crotch region," extends from about the outer front end 21 of front panel 20, to about the outer back end 31 of back panel 30, and thus, "substantially to said front and rear waist regions." (See page 11, lines 13-16 with reference to FIG. 11). As taught on page 11, lines 16-19, however, Applicants make it clear that "[i]n use ... center section 50 need only be in fluid communication with front and back panels 20 and 30, preferably by overlapping in a layered relationship, and may not extend to outer front end 21 or outer back end 31." (Emphasis added). Therefore, the claim limitation removed by amendment is not necessary to practice the invention, as is fully disclosed in the Specification. Accordingly, no new matter is involved.

CONCLUSION

Claims 1-27 remain pending in the Application, which is awaiting a First Office Action on the merits. Should there be any questions regarding this Preliminary Amendment, the Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned by telephone at the earliest possible date to achieve a timely resolution.

Respectfully submitted,

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